

Appl. No. 10/698,288
Amdt. dated December 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This is a divisional of claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/892,050, filed June 26, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,976, which in turn claimed the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/214,338, filed June 27, 2000, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Advantageously, the pin according to this invention includes a tapered region to facilitate the removal of the pin from the tie rod and flanges of the adjacent panels during disassembly of the wall forms after the concrete has cured. In certain embodiments of this invention, the tapered region ~~extends the entire length of the shank of the pin and~~ includes two portions. A first portion proximate the head of the pin tapers from a large diameter adjacent the head toward a smaller diameter at a juncture with a second tapered portion. The diameter of the second tapered portion at the juncture is greater than the diameter of the pin proximate the tip end. As a result of the tapered region and other features of the pin according to this invention, once the wedge is removed from the slot, the removal of the pin is easier than with known pin designs

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because of the tapered region. The taper on the shank of the pin promotes the release of the pin from the holes in the flanges of the panels and the removal of the shank of the pin from the hole in the tie rod. Because of the tapered region, movement of the pin from a larger diameter or circumferential portion of the shank toward a smaller diameter or circumferential portion is advantageously easier than the purely cylindrical-shaped, non-tapered shank of known pins.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In one embodiment, the tapered region 20 extends a substantial portion of the entire length of the shank 14 from the head 12 to the blunt tip 16. In a further embodiment, the tapered region 20 includes the first and second portions 21, 22. The first portion 21 begins adjacent the head 12 and extends approximately 1.185 inches. The taper of the first portion 21 is relatively slight and preferably on the order of 0.65 inches to 0.63 inches. The taper of the second portion 22 is more significant and is on the order of 0.125 inches preferably. Generally, it is advantageous to have the tie-rod 42 seated on the tapered region 20 of the shank 14 of the pin 10 (Fig. 6) to facilitate the removal of the tie-rod 42. The tapered region 20 promotes the withdraw of the pin 10 from the hole 44 of the tie-rod 42 and, likewise, the withdraw of the pin 10 from the holes 34, 34a in the flanges 36, 36a of the adjacent wall form panels. --